

Minutes
Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting

Room 105, Gressette Building, Columbia, S.C.
March 2, 2011 10:00 a.m. scheduled

The meeting began at 10:03 a.m. The Redistricting Subcommittee members present were: Senator McConnell, Senator Ford, Senator Larry Martin, Senator Hutto, Senator Malloy, Senator Cleary, and Senator Shoopman. The Senate Redistricting staff persons present were: Charles Terreni, Debbie Hammond, Katherine Wells, Bonnie Anzelmo, and Paula Benson.

Senator McConnell called the meeting to order, explained it was the first meeting of the subcommittee, and spoke about the challenges facing the subcommittee. He described the task the subcommittee must undertake and the laws with which it must comply. He recommended the following process to accomplish the task: (1) to gather public input through a series of hearings in order to develop criteria; (2) following the public hearings, to adopt criteria to serve as the subcommittee's "rules of the road"; (3) to proceed, using the "rules of the road," to consider and draw plans for the State Senate and Congressional districts. He encouraged keeping the public involved in the process. He called upon Charles Terreni to give the subcommittee a status report on the 2010 census and South Carolina's position.

Senator Ford asked about Mr. Terreni's background. Senator McConnell explained he was a South Carolina attorney experienced with the legal issues the subcommittee would face.

Mr. Terreni gave the subcommittee the preliminary information received from the Census Bureau about the population in South Carolina and the expected ideal population numbers for Senate and Congressional districts. He explained the schedule for the release of the data and cautioned the subcommittee that the data would need to be verified for accuracy.

Senator McConnell recognized Debbie Hammond, who provided information about the public hearings schedule. The public hearings had been planned to take place in Myrtle Beach, Aiken, Rock Hill, Greenville, Beaufort, Columbia, Florence, and Charleston.

Senator Hutto recommended that two additional public hearings could be scheduled in Orangeburg and Sumter.

Senator Ford asked for additional information about the size of the districts and population counts. Senator McConnell suggested that he confer with Mr. Terreni following the meeting.

Senator Hutto moved and Senator Cleary seconded that staff be directed to schedule the public hearings as planned and recommended. The entire subcommittee approved the motion.

Senator McConnell recognized Katherine Wells to present a public participation proposal for the subcommittee's consideration. Ms. Wells described the proposed policy, which explained how the public could access information and provide input to the subcommittee.

Senator Malloy moved that the public participation policy proposal Ms. Wells described be adopted. Senator Cleary seconded the motion. Senator Hutto asked if the data received from the Census Bureau would be on the website or the verified data. Mr. Terreni explained that the data would be on the website as soon as received and would match the data on the Census website; however, if adjustments needed to be made, those would be noted on the Senate Redistricting website and available for public use. The public participation policy proposal was adopted by the entire membership of the subcommittee.

Senator McConnell recognized Mr. Terreni to explain a proposed public submission policy. Mr. Terreni described the proposed policy, pointing out that it had been modernized to reflect current technology. Senator Martin moved and Senator Malloy seconded that the public submission policy be adopted. The motion was approved by the entire membership of the subcommittee.

Senator McConnell recognized Ms. Hammond, who demonstrated how to access the Senate Redistricting website and provided information about the materials that would be available on the website. Senator Hutto asked questions about the transcripts and how soon they would be available. Senator Malloy asked questions about accessing the website. Senator Cleary asked that information about the Myrtle Beach meeting include directions because there were two campuses of the Horry Georgetown Technical College.

Senator McConnell thanked the subcommittee members for agreeing to serve and adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.